

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3-4, 7 and 12 have been amended to change their dependency. Claims 16-20 have been added. No new matter has been added.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 3-14 and 16-20 are now pending in this application.

Allowable subject matter

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 10, 11, 13 and 14 are allowed. Dependent claims 3-9, 12 and 16-20 depend, either directly or indirectly, from one of claims 10 or 13, and thus are likewise believed to be allowable.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1, 3, 7 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,483,850 to Yamauchi (“Yamauchi”). Claims 1, 7-9 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,480,014 to Barton et al. (“Barton”). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barton in view of Yamauchi. Claims 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamauchi. These rejections are moot in light of the cancellation of claim 1, and the amendments such that all of the pending dependent claims depend from independent claims indicated as being allowable as discussed above.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance.
Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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